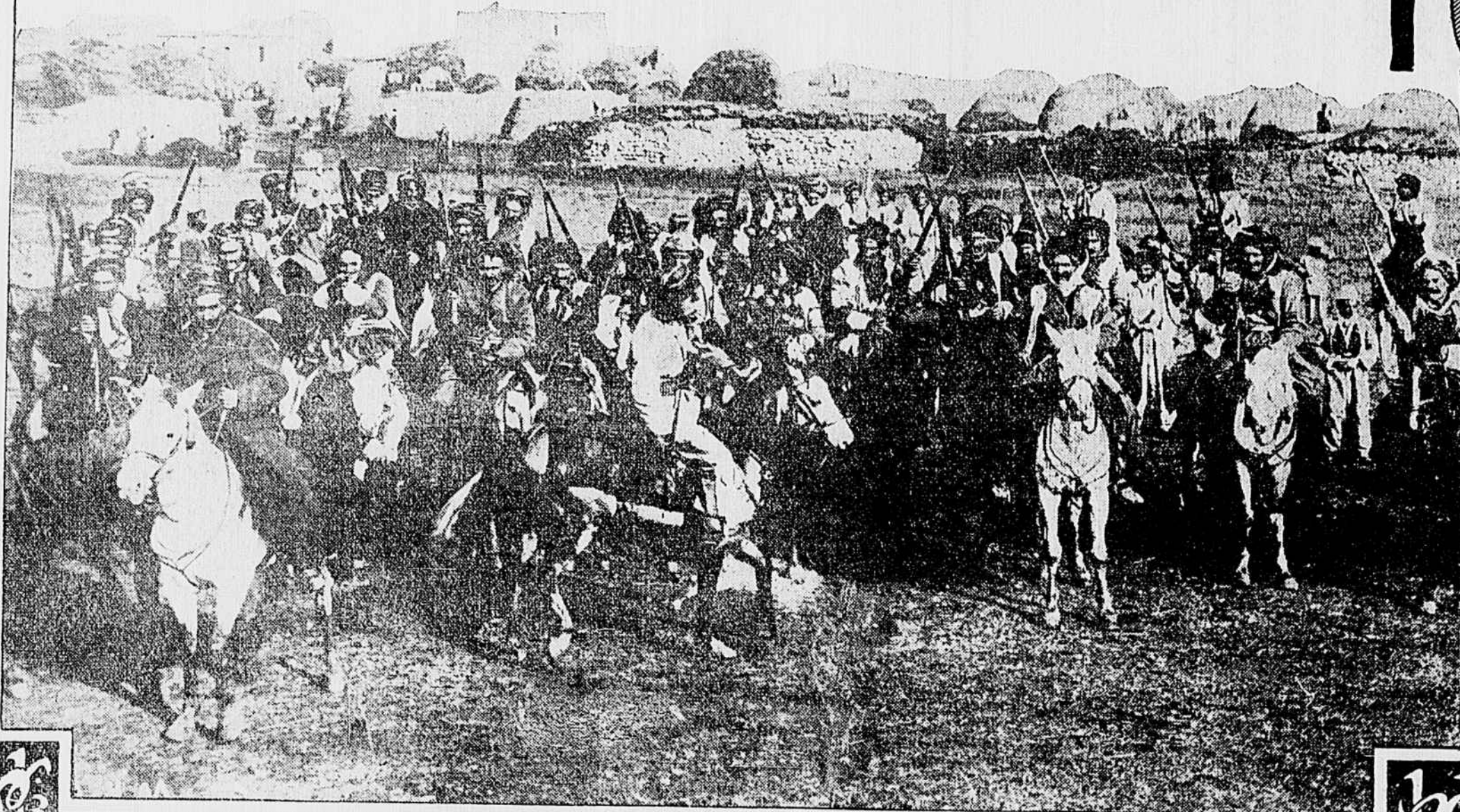


TURKEYS

**How the Savages
Turned Local
Christians, Have As
Missionaries
Priests, Torture
Children and**



Those Are the Savage Kurds About to Go Forth to Massacre Christians on the Persian and Turkish Frontier.

that only so could they save their lives. The details of that dreadful journey I have written before. Some can never be written, and even now as I recall the suffering by the way there is a tugging at my heart that is real pain.

"But while many thousand fled, leaving everything behind and enduring the intense privations of a foot journey in the snow and mud, without any preparation for it, along with their wives and little children, still many thousand remained behind, simply because they could not leave, their villages being so situated that flight was impossible. Some of these remained in their villages, and only the future can give us a correct roll of those murdered in cold blood and with cruel tortures, of the women and girls carried off to a life that is many times worse than death, and of children lost and families separated in the time of this terrible catastrophe. All who could fled to the city and found the one shelter that gave them the best hope of safety. It was our American Mission property, guarded by the American flag and, what was even more potent than the flag, the position of influence and confidence earned by long years of service of our missionaries.

"Then came days of the utmost anxiety. Would the leaders of the invading force respect our flag and, even if they did, could they hold their lawless followers in check? It was then that the value of years of unselfish, straightforward dealing with all classes of the community began to show itself; and it was then, too, that all the long experience of dealing with the natives of every nationality and grade could be utilized for the salvation of this helpless multitude. I said before that the American flag did much (thank God that at this time our nation has been neutral), but much more was

A MERICANS now have convincing proof of the meaning of the "Holy War" proclaimed by Turkey when she entered into the struggle against the English-French-Russian alliance.

One of the most promising American missionary fields, the whole of northwestern Persia has been ravaged and desolated by savage Kurds and Turks. This field is under the direction of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

Christian men, women and children have there been ruthlessly slaughtered with accompaniments of unspeakable cruelty and torture. Not less than 20,000 Christians are dead or missing, of whom many have been massacred.

Children who were showing the most beautiful results of American missionary training have been murdered in cold blood. Pretty churches and peaceful villages have been burnt down and their people exterminated.

The Christians who took refuge in the American missionary compounds and those who were able to flee northward into Russia were almost the only ones who escaped the murdering Kurds.

American missionaries were assaulted and insulted while protecting their converts and other helpless natives. Many other natives were murdered in the presence of our American missionaries, who were powerless to do more than protect those they had placed behind walls.

It is to be feared that before this appears some of the American missionaries may have paid for their devotion to their proteges with their lives.

Why has this American missionary field, nominally situated in a neutral country been

thus murderously invaded? Persia, an ancient, but feeble country, which in recent years has been pathetically striving for freedom, lies, roughly speaking, east of Asiatic Turkey and south of Russia. The last-named country has acquired a great interest in northern Persia, and on this pretext the Turks invaded the country and slaughtered the inhabitants with every possible atrocity. It is true that the Russians drove the Turks back with heavy slaughter, but this was of very little advantage to the unfortunate natives, who had already suffered terribly. After this the Russians were compelled to retire again.

When the Turks declared a "Holy War" against all the enemies of Islam they gave an implied license to the savage Kurds to commit every atrocity they desired upon Persians, Armenians and Christians of all kinds. The Kurds can hardly be blamed, for they know no other method of warfare.

There are, it is estimated, 3,000,000 Kurds in Asiatic Turkey and in Persia. They live a savage, nomadic and tribal existence. As a rule they inhabit the mountains and large pastoral plains of Turkey and Persia, regions which permit the wandering existence they desire.

In religion they are partly Mohammedan and partly belong to pagan sects with the most fantastic forms of idolatry. Some of them are addicted to devil worship.

They wander about in bands, always armed. Their weapons include anything from mediaeval arms to modern rifles. They are always ready for a fight, just as our Apache Indians used to be.

The Kurds are really the licensed assassins of the Turkish Empire. Again and again they have attacked the Christian Armenian

towns and massacred the inhabitants. To-day they are being used against the Christian Persians on the pretext of war.

The United States Government has been appealed to for help for the American missionaries and native Christians, but finds it difficult to do anything. The only power that can restrain the savage Kurds is the Turkish Government at Constantinople, and that Government has declared a "Holy War."

It is suggested that the American Government should appeal to Germany to induce Turkey, with which it is in alliance, to restrain the Kurds in their attacks on defenseless Christians.

Urumia, in northwestern Persia, a very important American missionary centre, has been the scene of the most shocking massacres by the Kurds and Kurds.

The dispatches have told us that the Turkish Consul at Urumia led the Kurdish raiders in their attacks on Christians.

It was early in January that the Kurds and Kurds first attacked Urumia. This place, it should be explained, is a considerable town, situated on a vast plain which bears the same name. In the villages of the plain are many Christian natives, while the region also furnishes pasturage to many nomadic Kurds.

The Kurds and Turks fell upon the Urumia villages, devastated the homes, confiscated private property and inflicted dreadful tortures upon the defenseless Christians who fell into their hands.

Fourteen thousand took refuge with the American and French missionaries, and were settled in the compounds in Urumia and Tabriz, where, for the time being, they were apparently safe from violence.

As time went on, however, the Turks and

Kurdish raiders became daily bolder and more bloodthirsty.

Seventy Turkish regular troops entered the mission, hanged the orthodox Bishop, Mar Ella, and four orthodox clergymen, and beat and insulted the Rev. E. T. Allen, an American missionary. A hanging pole was erected in the American Mission yard, and on this five refugees were hanged. Shortly before that sixty refugees had been dragged from the French Mission and executed in spite of the pleas of the nuns.

At Culpashan the Kurds were particularly cruel. This was the last of a total of 103 villages to hold out, and it was occupied two months ago. The Kurds ordered all the male citizens into the streets, tied them in groups of five, marched them to the graveyard and killed them barbarously to the last boy. Girl babies and the older women were then executed with great atrocity, while the younger women were carried away as slaves.

The Christians fought their assailants bravely, and as long as they had ammunition they were victorious.

The missionaries were untiring in their efforts to help the people, and they are spending money to this end freely. In Urumia they have been disbursing the equivalent of \$400 daily.

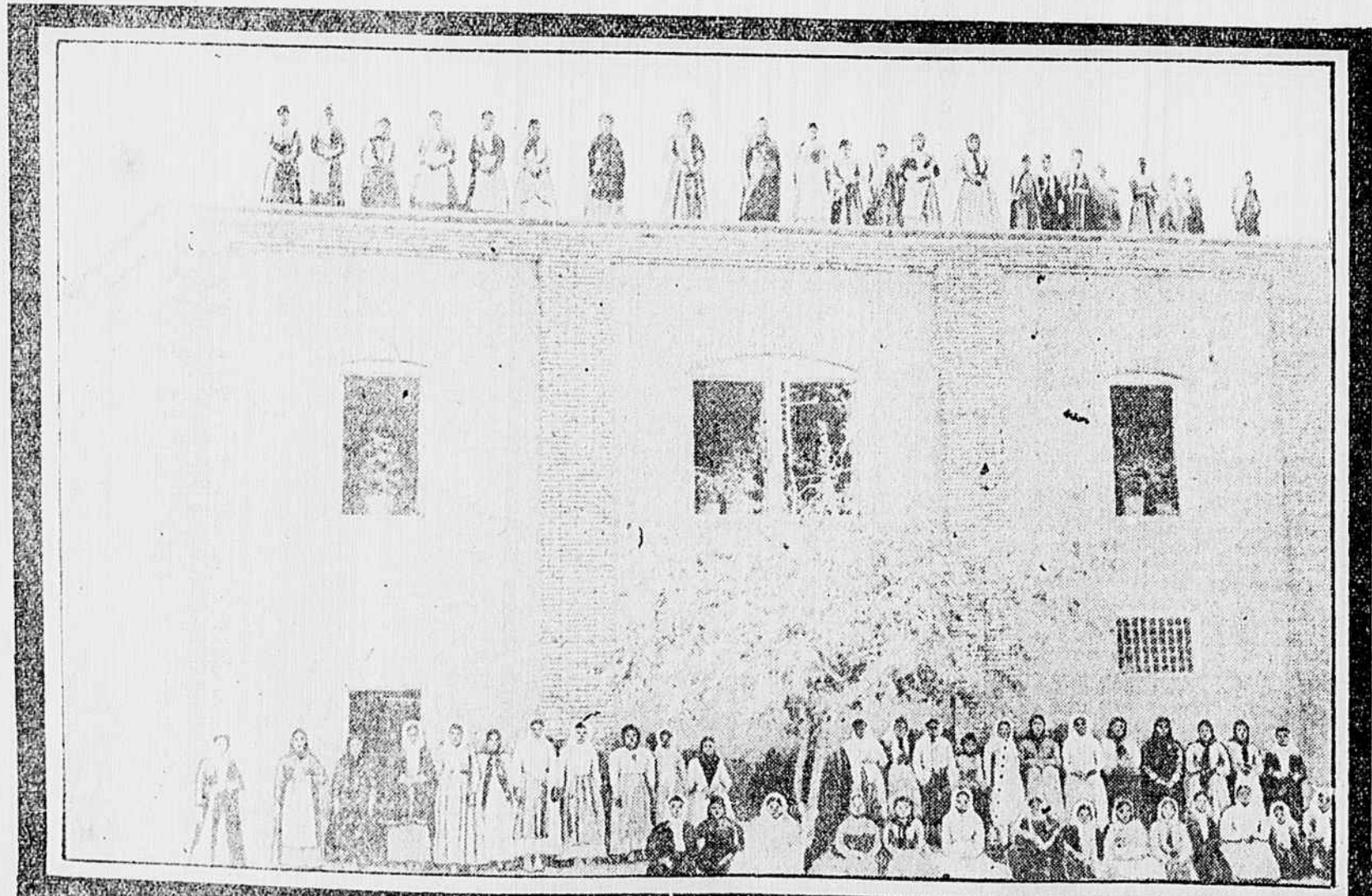
Disease is prevalent among the refugees. In addition to the cable dispatches, some account of these outrages has been received by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions from Persian Christians who had fled in January and had returned to Urumia with funds and supplies for the relief of their countrymen.

Of the ten American missionaries in this section several have been heard from. The Rev. Robert M. Larabee, of Urumia, Persia, in a personal letter to Secretary Robert E. Speer, of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, writes as follows:

"Tiflis, Persia, March 6, 1915.
"Up to the middle of February the refugees were still in the Urumia Mission yards, most of them supported by our mission. The revised figures are about 12,000 in our yards, both city and college, and 3,000 in the French Mission."

"When on January 2 of this year the Russian troops withdrew suddenly and without warning, not only from Urumia, but from all Azerbaijan Province, there was absolutely no human power left seemingly competent to protect the Christian population of the border districts from the savage vengeance of the wild Kurdish tribes, made many times more intense by reason of recent events on which I cannot dilate in this report."

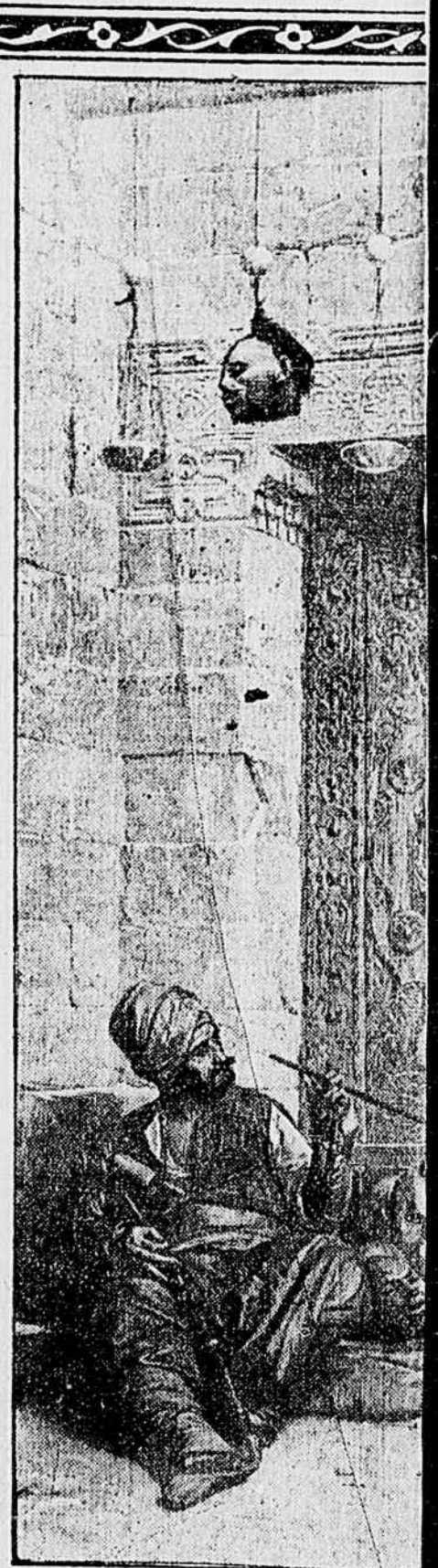
"It was an awful situation, and all who could leave, especially in the northern part of Urumia plain, started immediately on a long and painful journey to the Russian border, realizing



The Piske Seminary at Urumia, Persia, in the Compound of Which 15,000 Native Christians Took Refuge. Five Refugees Were Hanged by the Kurds in the Courtyard.



Harry P. Packard, the Brave Doctor of the American Missionary Station at Urumia, Persia.



How the Turks Have Massacred